

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 HA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /107 W

-----072497 211615Z /46

P R 211520Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7933

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 2732

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PE, PR, GV, SG, IV, LI, SHUM

SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE OF MONROVIA SUMMIT

REF: MONROVIA 1956

1. IVORIAN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE AND VERY POSITIVE COVERAGE TO MONROVIA SUMMIT. SEVERAL ISSUES OF SEMI-OFFICIAL "FRATERNITE MATIN" HAVE SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF HOUPHOUET, SEKOU TOURE, ET AL SMILING, EMBRACING AND OBVIOUSLY IN GOOD SPIRITS. MOREOVER, COVERAGE CONVEYS A SENSE OF SPONTANEITY TO ATMOSPHERICS AT MONROVIA.

2. MARCH 20 ISSUE OF "FRTERNITE MATIN" WAS HEADLINED, "IVORY COAST-GUINEA: EVERYTHING STARTS ANEW, "AND SHOWED HOUPHOUET AND SEKOU TOURE EXCHANGING FRATERNAL KISSES, AS  
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WELL AS SENGHOR, HOUPHOUET AND SEKOU TOURE HOLDING HEIR RAISED HANDS IN A TRIUMPHANT GESTURE. SAME ISSUE PUBLISHED THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S SPEECH AT THE END OF THE SUMMIT AND NUMEROUS PHOTOS SHOWING ALL THE SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS IN A VARIETY OF COMBINATION AND POSES. ONE PARTICULAR PHOTO SHOWED THE SIX HEADS OF STATE STANDING, BEAMING AND HOLDING HANDS; EVEN SENGHOR AP-

PEARED GENUINELY HAPPY.

3. INDICATIVE OF THE KIND OF COVERAGE GIVEN SUMMIT HERE IS NA EDITIRIAL BY SENIOR EDITOR WHICH LEADS OFF WITH THE LINE, "WEST AFRICA, AND WHY NOT THE WHOLE WORLD, WILL REMEMBER THIS HISTORICAL MILESTONE ON THE PATH TO AFRICAN UNITY..." WISDOM AND DIALOGUE HAVE TRIUMPHED. BI-LATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION WILL BE EXPANDED AND RE-ENFORCED. THE FREE CIRCULATION OF PEOPLE AND OF GOODS WILL BE PERMITTED. AND ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THAT THE EXTRADITION OF GUINEAN POLITICAL REFUGEES "WILL NEVER AGAIN BE ASKED FOR SO THEY MAY PEACEFULLY PURSUE THEIR VOCATIONS IN THEIR ADOPTED COUNTRIES."

4. FINALLY, MARCH 21 ISSUE FEATURES YET ANOTHER PHOTO OF HOUPHOET AND SEKOU TOURE, SITTING AND SMILING AND VERY MUCH AT EASE AND HEADLINES THE CONVOCAION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING HOUPHOUET'S REPORT ON THE SUMMIT. WE NOTE THAT SEVENTY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GUINEAN COLONY IN IVORY COAST HAVE BEEN INVITED, UNDOUBTLY TO RECEIVE ASSURANCES FROM HOUPHOUET HIMSELF THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT AT MONROVIA.

STEARNS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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